

TALON



Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, August 10, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army

**American CIMIC Battalion:
Mission Complete**

Do We Say 'No' To God?

An important duty of parents is to teach their children to talk. In the long, laborious process, there is one word that every child seems to learn all by himself, a word that no one has to teach him. And that one word is 'no.'

There are many things most children say 'no' to, such as eating the right kind of food and going to bed at the proper time. It would be the easiest thing in the world for parents simply to allow a child to do whatever he wants – no more tears and no more pouting. Such peace!

But complete permissiveness is in no way a sign of love. Parents who do not take the time and effort to guide their children have abandoned their role and are not worthy to know what is good for them. Parents have the right and the duty to discipline their children because they are wiser and more experienced.

God is infinitely wise and his experience is eternal. His love is without measure. That is why he can and does say, "I the Lord, your God, teach you what is good for you, and lead you on the way you should do."

No matter how old we may be, in relation to God we are like children. Without his guidance we would be worse off than a little child trying to grow up without parents. Ignoring God's commandments can only make a shamble of our lives.

We should be grateful to God that he loves us enough to take the time and effort to guide us through life by means of his commandments. The biggest mistake we can make is to say 'no' to God.

Thoughts For The Day

Sunday: "Let the road be rough and dreary, and its end far out of sight. Foot it bravely, strong or weary, trust in God and do the right thing." Macleod

Monday: "The wonder of creation speaks to everyone in different ways. But only those who know the Lord can for His handiwork give praise." Sper

Tuesday: "What is the meaning of life here on earth? What is its purpose, and what is its worth? God has the answers in his holy book. That is the first and the best place to look." Hess

Wednesday: "God gave us this earth to enjoy, its beauty and wonder to know. But when the time comes to go home, we won't miss a thing here below." Hess

Thursday: "I want to follow you, o Lord, your plans for me I will obey. So when You close or open doors, help me to see your perfect way." Sper

Friday: "Our life can be so very busy that we have no time for friends. But we must spend more time with God, for his friendship never ends." Fitzhugh

Saturday: "If we turn from God who made us, he who loves us as his own, we will go on longing, we were made for him alone." D. De Haam

Chaplain (Capt.) Tad Majkut
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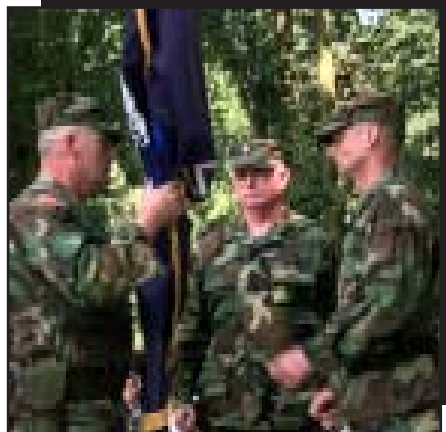
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As Lt. Col. John Irvin watches, Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Moraska passes the battalion colors to Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp during the CIMIC Battalion's end of mission ceremony. See more stories about CIMIC's accomplishments inside. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy)



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Old, graffiti-worn walls are repainted at the Tuzla Teen Center. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Richard C. Sater)



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This child was made for walking and that's just what she'll do, thanks to members of the CIMIC Battalion. (Photo by Capt. Kevin Lanigan)

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Commanding General's Remarks for U.S. CIMIC End of Mission Ceremony

By Maj. Gen Walter Sharp
Commander, MND(N)

"Distinguished guests, leaders of the international community in Bosnia, soldiers of the CIMIC Battalion, and soldiers of Multinational Division (North), thank you for joining us today as we mark another transition milestone in the process that will bring lasting peace to the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The CIMIC Battalion has provided outstanding support since its activation in March 1996. We are here today to witness, after its 11th rotation, the end of the mission for the U.S. CIMIC Battalion. Our aim in Bosnia-Herzegovina is to get the civilian society functioning again, ensure a lasting peace and to enable Bosnia to move forward on its own.

While military forces have the training and equipment to bring an end to open fighting and to provide a safe and secure environment, it is the civilian agencies that are often the most important element in creating a lasting peace. The humanitarian aid, infrastructure reconstruction, police training and reconciliation among the population is the vital work of local international organizations.

The cooperation between civilian agencies and the military mission – like the tolerance we promote to the citizens in Bosnia-Herzegovina – benefits all of us.

The CIMIC Battalion has provided that critical link between the IC, the civilian aid organizations, the Stabilization Forces and the communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina. CIMIC has been a critical part of Operation Joint Forge since the Implementation Force mission began.

From the start, CIMIC has enhanced the economic development in this country. The Arizona Market near Brcko is one early example of a CIMIC project that encouraged free trade, freedom of movement and cooperation between the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. CIMIC battalions have overseen and assisted in several elections in this country.

In 1997, we began operating a CIMIC house in Tuzla. This and many other similar houses provide a non-threatening

place for local citizens or displaced persons to talk with SFOR, to ask questions, and to find out information.

Your open-door policy meant that anyone could discuss any concern. People came to talk about problems with harassment and with property rights. They came when they were threatened with eviction from their homes. They came seeking medicine or medical treatment. While we could not always provide assistance directly, you worked hard to coordinate aid for anyone who walked through the door, whatever



place for local citizens or displaced persons to talk with SFOR, to ask questions, and to find out information.

Even more visible throughout MND(N) were the results of the Community Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development. CIRP builds schools, water treatment facilities, roads and bridges – projects that are targeted toward resettling minority communities. CIMIC conducted hundreds of community assessments to determine the status and needs of those returning to their homes. In the last six months, the CIMIC battalion assessed more than 150 CIRP projects, old and new, that will translate into \$6 million of humanitarian aid.

The CIMIC Battalion can be proud of their accomplishments for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. You can return home

knowing you have made a huge difference to the people of Bosnia.

Although a lot has been accomplished, more still needs to be done here, and around the world. As the U.S. looks around the globe, it is appropriate to refocus our limited CIMIC units on other parts of the world.

You have completed six years of great works in Bosnia. I am very proud of all that you and your predecessors have accomplished. Today we pass the primary CIMIC responsibility to the Finnish CIMIC Company, and a new chapter begins.

The Finnish Company has already opened CIMIC facilities in Bejilina, Bratunac, Janja and Modrica. These houses continue an important tradition: providing a non-threatening environment where local citizens can meet one-on-one with representatives from SFOR. The mission is in good hands.

The U.S. will also maintain a civil affairs presence with two five-soldier tactical support teams performing a CIMIC role at Camp McGovern and Camp Comanche.

The CIMIC Battalion represents what is best about our mission here. The great majority of CIMIC soldiers are in the Army Reserves and it is truly a coalition partnership. We have leveraged important civilian skills from our citizen-soldiers, and the experience of our allies, to the great benefit of our mission. We absolutely could not do this mission otherwise.

CIMIC is a cooperative international effort with the same goal: restoring a society. Tolerance and cooperation mean a brighter future. Each of you have helped the people of Bosnia get closer to this brighter future.

To those assembled here and all the soldiers who have been a part of the Provisional CIMIC Battalion since 1996, you have carried out your mission well and faithfully. Your mission here in Bosnia is complete but there is much more work to be done around the world.

Thank you for your hard work here and good luck in all your future missions.

ROCK OF THE MARNE!"

ASG Eagle Opens for Business

Story by Pfc. Michael Bennett

Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy

Eagle Base

Multinational Division (North) gained a new asset in its mission to maintain stability in Bosnia. Area Support Group Eagle was activated in a ceremony on Eagle Base Aug. 2.

The ASG was serving in Hungary as the United States Army Support Element, Taszar, which was inactivated in the ceremony as well. The ASG was moved to Eagle Base to support the Task Force Eagle commander so he can focus on the overall mission without having to be as concerned with support issues, said Col. William Haass, the commander of the ASG.

"Back at Ft. Stewart (Ga.), Maj. Gen. (Walter) Sharp (commander, MND(N)) had a Division Support Command, so he could focus on training," said Col. Haass. "Here he doesn't have that. He has had to try to coordinate everything on his own."

During the activation ceremony for ASG Eagle, Maj. Gen. Sharp, said, "The addition of the ASG will allow the TFE troops to focus more completely on our patrolling, (Armed Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina) compliance inspections and engagement tasks. (Their) presence will allow us to more efficiently accomplish SFOR's mission in Bosnia."

"What we do," said Col. Haass, "is provide Title 10 support to the people with SFOR." Title 10, which is a set of codified regulations, spells out what can and cannot be done in support of forces deployed for Stabilization Force and Kosovo Force, he said.

The ASG is also responsible for welfare of soldiers, through overseeing the dining facilities, taking command of the guard force and mail service. Troop morale is addressed by coordinating the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office.

"All mail into this part of the world comes from Germany through our Area Support Team in Taszar," said Lt. Col. Alan Fessenden, the ASG operations officer. Our people there sort what goes to Bosnia or Kosovo."

ASG Eagle is not the first support group to transition into the Balkans. An ASG was activated in Kosovo earlier this year.

"There has been an ASG in Kosovo for about three months now," said Col. Haass, "and the U.S. government has been looking at moving us into Bosnia for about six months. They finally decided it was a safe and secure enough environment for us. They wanted to be sure, because an ASG is a decidedly noncombat force."

However, even as a noncombat force, they are preparing to take over some missions that have been previously handled by infantry units.

"Part of what we're doing is taking on part of the mission (1st Battalion, 121st Infantry) has been doing," said Col. Haass. The Base Defense Operations Center, the guard force and the Mayor's Cell are some of 1-121's duties that will now be the ASG's, he said.

"We're simply assuming the command and control functions. We'll still have the same number of towers. The same number of troops will still be required for guard mount," said Col. Haass.



Lt. Gen. Larry Jordan, (left) deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, passes the ASG Eagle colors to Col. William Haass, commander of ASG Eagle, during the activation ceremony Aug. 2.

Col. Haass explained that a subsection of the ASG, called the Installation Coordinator, would be taking over most Mayor's Cell responsibilities. The IC will assign and maintain billets, just as the Mayor's Cell did.

The ASG's mission also coordinates international transportation within their area of operations, said Lt. Col. Fessenden, giving as an example the buses that carry soldiers to Hungary for the Fighter Management Pass Program.

"We actually coordinate all FMPP and (Relaxation and Recuperation) leaves," said Col. Haass.

"And when a Red Cross emergency message comes in, we try to make sure...the soldier is able to go (on their emergency leave) as quickly as possible," he said.

The ASG doesn't just serve on Eagle Base, though.

"We have ASTs on Camp McGovern and Camp Comanche to take care of those bases," said Col. Haass.

Col. Haass explained that an AST functions as a remote link to the ASG, allowing the ASG to service that base's needs as well.

The ASG is a little early for the next rotation, but according to Col. Haass, they have a longer transition than most.

"I have people who've been doing their (preparations for the transition) for three weeks already, and are still due for two weeks more," he said. "It is a little unusual that the ASG was activated before the transfer of authority."

Sgt. 1st Class Harold Fijnvandraat, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the ASG Eagle operations, explained, "We were brought down early to set everything up. That way, the next rotation can come in and go straight to work."

American CIMIC Closes Doors

Story by Pfc. Michael Bennett

Eagle Base

The Civil and Military Cooperation Battalion closed its doors Aug. 8 in a ceremony marking the completion of its mission.

The battalion has finished its work here, but Maj. Christopher Tilley, the

battalion's executive officer, is quick to point out, "the civil affairs mission is not going away. The Finnish CIMIC Battalion is taking over our role as we leave, and there are still (American) teams (at Camp McGovern) and at Camp Comanche."

The American CIMIC battalion is comprised of soldiers from the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale,

Md., and the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, Syracuse, N.Y.

Sgt. Michael Rathje, the battalion signal NCOIC, explained that the ending of the American CIMIC mission is a matter of allocating resources. "They (the Department of Defense) are adjusting to fit the requirements for this area," he said.

Continued on Page 12

Tuzla Teen Center Gets Murals, Murals

Story by
Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Photos by Air Force Maj.
Richard C. Sater
Eagle Base



(Above) "Dr. Hip Hop" displays his talents on the walls of the arena. Paints and rollers were donated by CIMIC to the center for the young artists to use. The walls are expected to take at least another two weeks to finish.



More than two dozen Tuzla teens participated in the repainting of a sports arena wall. Covering one side with acrylic paint alone took approximately 30 minutes. However, time wasn't a factor for the kids who volunteered to paint the entire wall.

Paint was flying and children were smiling.

The clanking sound of empty spray cans could be heard throughout the Tuzla Teenage Center. Several dozen youths painted the walls of the center's basketball arena, and what was formerly disorganized graffiti became murals and other forms of expression.

The Civil Military Cooperation battalion, in cooperation with youth-center officials, performed its last official act here before its departure Aug. 8.

Edo Hodzic, the center's activities and sports director, brought in local children to help paint the walls with murals, and CIMIC bought all the supplies needed to paint: rollers, brushes, paints and spray cans.

Lt. Col. Fred Joseph, CIMIC's general support team chief, attached to the

360th Civil Affairs Brigade out of Fort Jackson, S.C., spearheaded the project and acquired the supplies needed to paint the wall. The money was donated by soldiers of CIMIC.

The first thing that needed to be done to the wall was to cover up all the random graffiti that had been put on it over the years. White acrylic paint was used, and it took the children approximately 30 minutes to cover one side of the arena wall. After the paint dried, the children began to express themselves by spray painting and redesigning the walls with their own personal touches.

Mr. Hodzic thinks it will take another couple of weeks to finish painting the wall. Mr. Hodzic said, "The point of today was to get the children off the streets and have them do something constructive." The original plan was to section off the paintings by alternating white areas with painted areas. However, the children had so much fun it was decided to let them do the entire wall.

"It was not what we had planned but at least the children had fun," he said.

Mr. Hodzic and members of the youth center were very thankful for the supplies and help CIMIC gave them.

"I cannot express enough how grateful I am that they helped us, and Lt. Col. Joseph was great to

ets a Face-lift with.... Is on the Wall

work with," he said.

Lt. Col. Joseph donated rollers and paint for the wall project, and he intends to send more cartons of spray paint from home in mid-August. He says, "I have a soft heart for kids. To see them grow up here like they do is hard. All kids should grow up with the same opportunities. They should get to be kids – not have to stand on the corner and beg for money."

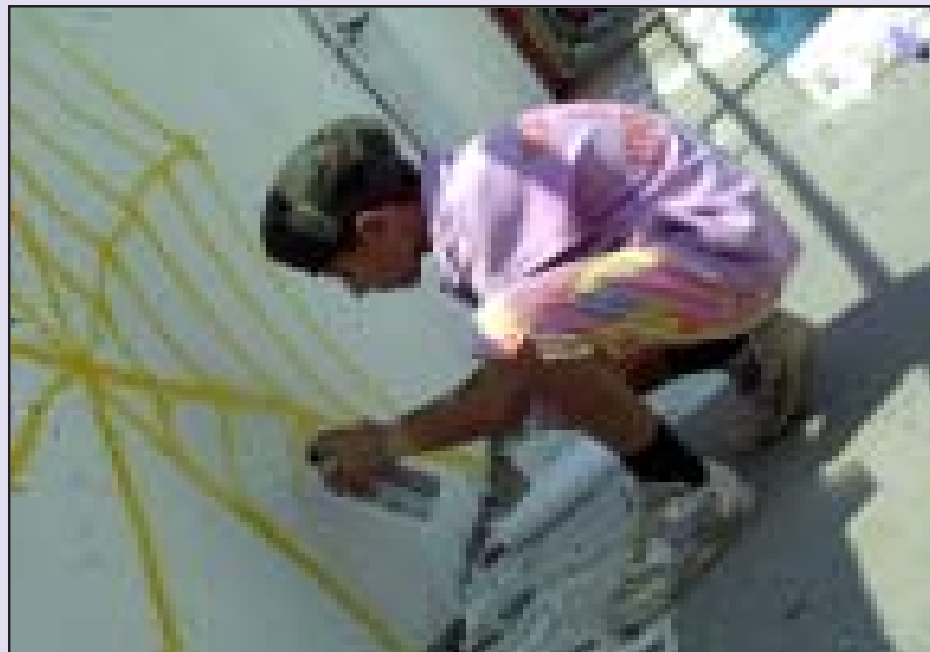
Cooperation between Mr. Hodzic and CIMIC played a huge role in the completion of the project. "Edo was very easy to work with, and if everyone was like him the world would be a better place," Lt. Col. Joseph said.

The center offers educational as well as social and sports activities for young people. A youth counselor is also available. All activities are arranged in accordance with the teen's interests.

The center opened in 1995 as a humanitarian aid project started by a Swiss organization to serve local, displaced, and homeless children. The center is now a nongovernmental organization that relies largely on fundraising and private donations to operate.

The assistant manager, Sahiba Srna, says, "It's like a social project. It helps children integrate and communicate with one another. Coming to the center moves them from the street," she says.

Recently, CIMIC coordinated for delivery of humanitarian aid from Canada to the youth center



and the CIMIC staff helped unload the donations: soap, disposable diapers, detergent, vitamins, baby clothes and other baby care items, backpacks, 19 bicycles, 66 cartons of kids' shoes, granola bars, juice and chocolate.

The TTC is open from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. daily, and it caters to young people ages 13-21. There are approximately 1,200 registered members, according to Sahiba Srna. Approximately 500 teens participate regularly in activities offered at the center.



(Above) The arena wall was covered with fading graffiti before teens covered it with fresh white acrylic paint. Once the coat dried, personal touches of their own were painted on. (Left) Two teenage girls personalize the wall with flowers, "smiley" faces and even their own signatures.

Finnish CIMIC Assists Returnees

Story and photo by
Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

Returning to pre-war homes can be a trying experience for the displaced people of Bosnia's war. However, returnees to the Bratunac area have a friend in their corner.

A ceremony was held in June to commemorate the opening of a new Civilian and Military Cooperation House in Bratunac.

Finnish CIMIC personnel stationed at Eagle Base run the CIMIC House in Bratunac.

It is open two days a week, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays.

"We support the return process (all over Multinational Division (North)), in the American and Russian sectors," said Maj. Juhani Raanto, the commander of the Finnish CIMIC Company in MND(N).

"We have two officers and an interpreter working at the CIMIC house," said Maj. Raanto. "We originally planned to have the personnel stay at FOB Conner for those couple of days. That would shorten their drive considerably," he added.

At the Bratunac location, the CIMIC troops help people returning to that area.

They provide them with the information they need to find answers, said Maj. Raanto.

There are two main reasons that people near Bratunac come to the CIMIC house, he said.

"They come to us with questions about returning back to their pre-war homes," he said.

"They want to know how to get it organized and how to make it happen."

People also come to the CIMIC house for property claims. For instance, if someone is living in the returnee's house and they don't know how to get him or her out, they can come to the CIMIC house for guidance, said Maj. Raanto.

The CIMIC house doesn't take care of any claims themselves. They direct the returnees to the local officials they need to contact. It is up to the local officials how to solve



(From left) Lt. Col. Reed Dunn, commander of 2-121, Finnish Maj. Juhani Raanto, commander of the CIMIC Co., and Dragan Nikolic, deputy major of Bratunac, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the CIMIC House in Bratunac.

the people's problems.

"They (the returnees) will always get an answer at the CIMIC house," said Maj. Raanto. "It is never a 'yes' or 'no' answer."

"The officers here are very experienced. They know how to help these people find the answers they need," he added. To inform the local population that they are there to help, the CIMIC personnel need to get out and let the people know what they do, Maj. Raanto said.

"We conduct patrols to help spread the word of what we do. We also use the radio along with American civil affairs teams to let the people know we are here to help," he said.

Capt. Charles Bennett is the commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry.

His troops stationed at FOB Conner patrol the areas around Bratunac.

"I meet with local leaders, the international community and returnees. Because of this

I can advertise the CIMIC house to them and direct returnees with problems to all the providers in the area, to include the Finnish CIMIC House in Bratunac," he said.

The CIMIC house has been averaging ten visitors per day in the three weeks it has been open, Maj. Raanto said. They started with about four people per day, but have had up to 20 on certain days.

"As the word of what we do spreads, more people will come," he said.

The Finnish CIMIC personnel are planning to build a road into the hills surrounding Bratunac to assist returnees on the journey back to their homes. The road work by the CIMIC personnel has received a very positive response, said Capt. Bennett.

Patrolling the area around the CIMIC house gives Capt. Bennett and his troops the opportunity to see the result of the Finnish work.

"They send a positive image for (Stabilization Force) in the area," said Capt. Bennett. "Bratunac is famous for being a hard-line Serbian community. I see the Finnish CIMIC house chipping away at this image."

"Bratunac is famous for being a hard-line Serbian community. I see the Finnish CIMIC house chipping away at this image."

*—Capt. Charles Bennett,
commander, Company A,
2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry*

A Personal Patrol in Downtown Tuzla

Commentary by Air Force Major Richard C. Sater

Photos by Capt. Kevin Lanigan

Eagle Base

A period of transition follows a war, a time for reconstruction, rebuilding, and reconnecting.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, war ended in 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. In the years after, the international community has maintained a Stabilization Force in this country, helping its inhabitants through the gradual process, closing the gap between fighting and peace-keeping. Ultimately, the country must become self-sufficient, but for now, SFOR fills a need. One tool in its box is CIMIC, the office of Civilian and Military Cooperation.

One of the cornerstone missions for CIMIC in Multinational Division (North) is reminding the citizens that we're here and that we can help.

If you're walking in downtown Tuzla, you might run into a CIMIC patrol any day of the week but Sunday. And if you happen to be walking downtown this cool blue and sunny day, you might run into me.

Four of us volunteer for CIMIC patrol on this day. We travel together by HMMWV, part of a two-vehicle convoy into town. The other vehicle carries Col. Chuck Stutts and the team that mans the CIMIC house in Tuzla. My foursome also includes Staff Sgt. Don Morgan and Senior Airman Tracy Breitenkamp (both assigned to the 401st Airfield Operations Squadron here) and Senior Airman Dewayne Haferkamp, 401st Security Forces Flight. This is our first patrol.

We receive a short briefing – and a sketched map of the town – from the colonel, and we set off toward downtown. There's a day going on, and working men at work in the streets. Sewer workers keep busy below us, and a road crew mixes cement to patch a sidewalk. Construction continues on a building – offices, perhaps? Maybe another apartment? People walk past us with purpose, with places to go, promises to keep.

I smile and say "*dobro jutro*" to the people who will catch my eye, and they return my greeting. We walk through town, the four of us, bonded less by our Air Force connection than by excitement (and a little unease) for the unknown.

This part of town, with its narrow streets, is best suited for walking. Shops are open for business, selling shoes and hardware and brightly-colored plastic ware. We have been encouraged to interact with the local people, to shop, to eat.



Col. Chuck Stutts (right) and Spc. Kevin Jackson, are just a couple members of the CIMIC battalion, who worked at the house in Tuzla.



Whenever the CIMIC Battalion received donated "humanitarian assistance" goods, CIMIC members tried to make sure Tuzla residents – especially children benefitted. Here, Col Chuck Stutts distributes calendars to local kids.

I sample ice cream on a stick and purchase some Bosnian pop music from a compact disc-and-cassette vendor in the marketplace. What appeals to me most about the music is its western-ness. The songs would fit comfortably into American pop radio, except for lyrics sung in Serbo-Croatian. And they sing about love, just as they do at home.

We have no interpreter. I offer broken-English-and-sign-language requests but it's a relief to find vendors or proprietors who can speak much more of my language than I can of theirs.

My patrol breaks for coffee at an outdoor café, most of its tables filled. People talk to one another in low voices, intently, gesturing, smoking and leisurely sipping drinks. A small boy runs around the square with a popgun that shoots corks while his parents relax over sodas. I visit a grocery store; wandering the narrow aisles, choosing crackers and candy, I learn something about daily life here.

This is a town that almost made it through the war unscathed – until one night in May 1995, when a shell exploded in the square during a youth rally, killing 71 young people and injuring dozens more. A dignified monument at the center of town honors the memory of these people and serves as a reminder (in case such a reminder is necessary) there was once a war here. We pause to look, but most of those in town this morning rush by. They have seen it before. It is news only to us.

At one edge of town, three cemeteries bridge different wars and different generations in this country with its complex and tangled heritage. One cemetery is neat and orderly, a solemn memorial to the young people killed six years ago. A golden bust of military leader Josip Tito oversees the second cemetery, its haphazard stones marking the graves of men who died in the early 1940s when the Nazis overran the country. Beyond that, high above the city, the tower of a hundred-year-old Orthodox chapel rises amid marble crosses chiseled with Cyrillic lettering.

I stand on the top of this mountain, and the wind blows the clouds across the sky, and I can't believe I am here. In town, children wave as we walk by. I wave back. *Dobar dan*, I say. Good day. What do these children – and their parents – think of us wearing camouflage-colored suits on the streets of their town?

I am hopeful that we make a good impression, that our presence – and the entire Stabilization Force and its CIMIC responsibility – provides a measure of security in these uncertain times. Cooperation and tolerance are good messages to deliver.

I can't help but react with a sense of wonder about this place. I take photographs to capture a thousand words' worth of memory about its walls and bridges. I am a tourist here. When my tour of duty is over, I will return home. But I will remain hopeful.

Child Receives Assistance for Surgery from CIMIC when...

These 'Little Piggies' Go to the Doctor

Story by
Air Force Maj. Richard Sater
Photo by
Spc. Lesley Newport
Eagle Base

She may walk.

That's commonplace for most of us, perhaps, but for a 14-month-old Bosnian girl born with both feet malformed, a walk will be something like a miracle.

A pediatric surgeon will perform the operation soon at the hospital in Tuzla. If the surgery – and the post-operative treatment – is successful, the child will be able to walk. And CIMIC (the Office of Civil and Military Cooperation) has played a key role in making it happen.

Semsija Tomovic happened to stop by the Tuzla CIMIC house in March and asked the translator if the organization could provide medicine for her daughter Zumra, who was ill.

Col. Chuck Stutts, officer in charge of the house, was able to arrange for the medicine.

He asked the young mother to keep in touch, to let him know how the child was faring.

During a later visit to Tuzla, Mrs. Tomovic explained her situation in more detail. Her husband is a disabled war veteran, and she has two sons as well. They live in Djedino, a remote village located several hours away by bus.

Mrs. Tomovic makes a little money selling wild strawberries in season or firewood she chops herself, but providing for the family is difficult.

And Zumra's troubles didn't end with her illness. She was born with the condition commonly referred to as "club foot" – it results from malformed muscles during fetal development.

At birth, the tendons and ligaments are fused in a kind of fist, and the ankle is twisted.

Col. Stutts decided to get personally involved to see what could be done for the child.

His reasons were personal, in part. "I've got a granddaughter about this age," he



Mrs. Semsija Tomovic walked into the Tuzla CIMIC house asking about medicine for her daughter Zumra, and walked out with new hope.

said.

Corrective surgery – the sooner the better – was the only possible course of action. Under such circumstances, the Bosnian government pays for medical treatment but not the peripheral costs associated with a hospital stay.

So Col. Stutts served as a facilitator to line up the surgery. For more than two months, he made phone calls and talked to various agencies to set up meetings and transportation for the mother and daughter.

"It's been a struggle," he said. "The mother doesn't always show up when we ask her to. But I'm

"My daughter will live to experience walking."

**—Semsija Tomovic,
mother of child
diagnosed
with "club foot"**

glad she came here. We'll do whatever it takes to make a difference in this child's life."

He contributed money from his own pocket to pay for lodging and meals for Mrs. Tomovic while the child was examined and

treated for an infection and other health problems that needed to be corrected before the surgery could be scheduled.

Dr. Boris Bacic, a pediatric surgeon affiliated with the Tuzla Hospital, agreed to perform the operation.

For best results, the surgery should have been done when the child was six to ten months old, Dr. Bacic said. As the child ages, the procedure becomes "more

complicated with less results," the doctor explained.

For a child of Zumra's age, the surgery is "85 to 95 percent successful. This is our experience," the doctor said.

Had they waited even a few months more, the chance for success would have been greatly reduced. As the child grows, the soft tissue and bones begin to harden.

Aug. 7, Zumra underwent surgery, and the prognosis is good.

However, the surgery is only the beginning.

Recovery will be a long process; without the appropriate follow-on care, the surgery will have been in vain.

Mrs. Tomovic will have to make the commitment to bring Zumra into the city on a regular basis for medical treatment unavailable in their village.

"She will wear casts on her feet for two months and then splints for a year," the doctor said. Once the splints are removed, the child will need physical therapy.

Mrs. Tomovic recognized the necessity for the surgery, but she also expressed her embarrassment for having to accept charity. But she acknowledged the need for it, and is hopeful for the end result.

"My daughter will live to experience walking," she said through a translator.

For Col. Stutts, the effort has been worthwhile.

"A child who's a year old who can't walk – she's already behind. It's hard enough growing up here, finding employment and just getting by. For people with a disability, it's even harder," he said.

When his tour of duty ends in August, the colonel will have something valuable to take home with him and keep:

"She won't remember me, but I'll always remember her," he said of the little girl.

If all goes well, Zumra will walk, thanks to the colonel's willingness to make a difference.



24th ID ADC Visits 'His' NG Troops

Story by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
Eagle Base

Brig. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, assistant division commander of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), visited Eagle Base, Camp Comanche and Forward Operating



Brig. Gen. Wojdakowski

Base Connor Aug. 1-3, specifically to meet with soldiers of Georgia's 48th enhanced Separate Brigade.

He was involved with the 48th's tune-up for Bosnia mission. "I went through all the training with the brigade prior to their deployment," he said.

The 48th eSB is one of three National Guard brigades that fall under the 24th ID, which has an active-duty division staff. Although division headquarters is at Fort Riley, Kan., the three eSBs are in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The commander of the 24th is also the commander of Fort Riley. Brig. Gen. Wojdakowski, as part of what he calls the "24th Division (Forward)", is stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C.

In addition to the three National Guard eSBs, two armored brigades and an active-duty engineer brigade at Fort Riley round out the 24th ID.

"This makes the 24th truly a division of the total Army – National Guard and active duty," he said. Brig. Gen. Wojdakowski joined the 24th ID in August 2000.

Active duty and reserve component forces are being called upon to serve together more frequently now than ever before, notes Brig. Gen. Wojdakowski.

The integrated division idea – active-duty division staff having the lead role in training National Guard soldiers – was put to the test when the 24th assumed command of the eSBs two years ago.

In Brig. Gen. Wojdakowski's estimation, the integration has been a success.

"It has gone very well," he said. "We, as an active-duty division staff, provide some 'value added' to these eBrigades. We get to understand and know how these brigades operate better than anyone else, so we can really facilitate their relationship with the active-duty forces."

Other relationships having to be fostered are unique to the reserve components. The 24th assists with those as well, providing coordination between state Adjutant Generals and National Guard Bureaus.

The general pointed out some refinements in the works that will help cut down on a guardsman's annual training length. For example, a new plan to have a

separate railhead team on the front and back end of a National Training Center rotation will significantly reduce the time away from families and jobs.

"Instead of a month to five-week long rotation from start to finish, it will still be a two-week AT for three separate groups," said 1st Lt. Michael Lipper, acting commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry.

"(Brig. Gen. Wojdakowski) realizes the amount of time the National Guard takes away from employers is a serious problem. It can be very demanding on a civilian employer."

Brig Gen. Wojdakowski points to the 48th Brigade as a "great example of the National Guard and active duty forces working together.

"They came to Bosnia as part of the 3rd Infantry Division, but their attachment to the 3rd ID wasn't until they were mobilized. Prior to that, (the 24th Division) helped the integration between the 48th Brigade and the 3rd ID. And from all accounts, the 48th has proven themselves."

Another aspect of the integration of forces is that the 24th is involved in all aspects of a brigade's training.

"You ask the guys in the 48th Brigade, especially the leadership, if they like having the 24th Division with them – they'll say 'it's great to have a division and a headquarters that's intimately involved with our training and readiness, and that cares about us all the time.'"

103rd MI Battalion Downsizes

Story by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz
Eagle Base

During Stabilization Force 8 and 9, soldiers throughout Multinational Division (North) have faced a number of challenging missions, including the wake of the Brcko school riots, the November elections, international community raids, the Croat 3rd Entity Movement and the Srebrenica Observance.

The 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion (Task Force Dagger), from Ft. Stewart, Ga., has been supporting SFOR soldiers all along.

Intelligence soldiers play the role of the quiet mastermind behind the scenes, gathering information and addressing potential force protection concerns. "We provide information so the commander is not caught off guard. Instead of reacting to an event, he can anticipate it and minimize risks to soldiers," said Maj. Jon Smith, battalion executive officer of the 103rd.

Being in intelligence is similar to trying to solve a puzzle with missing pieces. After they have gathered their information, members of the 103rd have to put together as much of the puzzle as possible and make an educated prediction.

There are a number of ways intelligence soldiers gather their information. The two most commonly used are Tactical Human

Intelligence Teams and ground surveillance systems, said Maj. Smith.

Tactical HUMINT teams are soldiers who gather information for the commander of MND(N). With this information, he can make informed decisions concerning upcoming events in the area of operation, Maj. Smith said. The night stalker ground surveillance system is a long-distance camera operated by a team of soldiers. Intelligence soldiers also gather information from "open" sources such as newspapers and radio broadcasts.

As of Aug. 1, 176 of these soldiers have left MND(N) two months earlier than expected. "Due to force restructuring and downsizing guidance, we were directed to reduce the size of our force from 320 down to 124 soldiers," said Lt. Col. Joseph Green III, battalion commander of the 103rd.

Team Dagger replaces the battalion-sized Task Force Dagger. Led by Capt. Darryl Rupp, company commander of Company A, 103rd MI from Camp Comanche. Team Dagger will assume the mission until SFOR 10 arrives in October.

Capt. Rupp didn't foresee too many problems with the downsizing.

"The company structure, in terms of the number of personnel conducting intelligence missions, remains the same," he said.

"With the Finnish CIMIC here, they don't need the redundancy of that many civil affairs resources. The forces here are being reduced, and (the DoD is) keeping us ready for another mission that might need more civil affairs assets," Sgt. Rathje said.

Although the CIMIC Battalion it is not being replaced by Americans for Stabilization Force 10, departing soldiers have done a lot of good during their time here. "We've been extremely successful in our mission," said Maj. Tilley. That mission is to help foster cooperation between local authorities and forces, the international community and Task Force Eagle to uphold the Dayton Peace Accords, he explained.

"The CIMIC battalion performs several tasks," said Sgt. Rathje. "First, we act as a liaison between the international aid agencies who work and organize operations in MND(N)."

Sgt. Rathje explained that there are a number of aid organizations working in Bosnia, and CIMIC helps them decide how to allocate their resources to do the most good.

"Second, we identify problems locally, and determine if the Army or one of the aid organizations can address the problem. We look for anything that can help this country grow and get better. Third, we go out and see what problems there may be with any of our projects and try to correct those problems," said Sgt. Rathje.

As Maj. Tilley explains, the CIMIC "doesn't swing a hammer" on any of these missions, but still plays an indispensable part in them.

"We're facilitators, not 'doers'," said Maj. Tilley. "When we arrived, the United States Agency for International Development had allocated \$2 million for repair projects costing less than \$100,000 during the year 2000. Because of paperwork and assessment problems, none of those projects were going anywhere. We went out and reassessed those sites, and got the projects moving. USAID was so impressed; they allocated us another \$2 million. We just sent off the third set of (repair and construction) projects, making \$6 million worth of repair projects we've coordinated through that agency alone," said Maj. Tilley.

According to Maj. Tilley, that means the CIMIC simply makes the arrangements for new constructions and repairs in Bosnia, without actually taking part in them.

"We take assets and marry them up with projects," said Maj. Tilley. "We match (Army) engineers with the jobs."

Reconstruction is not the only type of project CIMIC coordinates. The Economic Action Group within the CIMIC tries to "break the cycle of donor dependency," said Maj. Tilley.

One of the battalion's goals is to promote business and wean the people off of economic aid. Those projects are a bit harder to judge than others, said Capt. Kevin Lanigan, a member of the CIMIC's Economic Action Group.

"Because of the nature of what we do, we can have a big impact, but it takes a long time before the effects can be seen," said Capt. Lanigan. "We try to facilitate (non-governmental agencies) making loans to small businesses to help improve the economy."

Capt. Lanigan does wish that people higher in the Bosnian government were as motivated to help restore the economy as the more local officials and small businessmen.

"They're very motivated at the local level," said Capt. Lanigan. "They want to see things happen."

Col. Chuck Stutts, director of the CIMIC house in downtown Tuzla, is very happy with what the house has accomplished.

"We had one Bosnian go to the police in March and turn in a weapon, in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords," said Col. Stutts. "Three weeks later he received official papers saying he was being charged for possession of a firearm. We visited the police and the judge and got the charges dropped."

"It has been a lot of fun being here," said Col. Stutts. "It was nice to be here and meet new people and integrate with the local populace."

Soldier on the Street

"How is your unit making a difference during this deployment?"

We helped a lot when we consolidated weapons storage sites."

Staff Sgt. Gerald Wallace
HHT, 3-7 Cav.
Camp McGovern

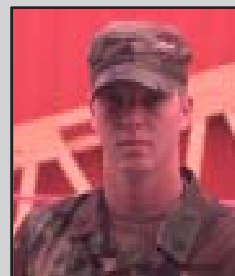
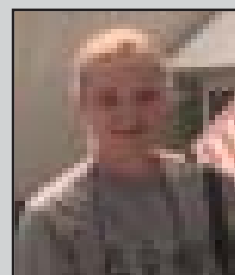


I think when the Bosnians see an American helicopter fly over they feel safer."

Spc. Ernest Evans
Co. A, 2-82 Aviation
Camp Comanche

We've created many special projects that have helped units complete their missions."

Spc. Lisa Huckstep
648th Engineers
Eagle Base

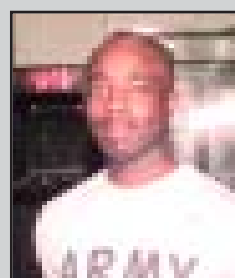


We ensured there was a safe and secure environment."

Sgt. Shawn Tiarks
Troop C, 3-7 Cav.
Camp McGovern

We're showing our goodwill in our resolve to keep the peace in Bosnia."

1st Lt. Steven Chadwick
Co. B, 1-108 Armor
Camp McGovern



We've raised our command inspection rating up to 98 percent."

Staff Sgt. John Brown
HHC, 3rd ID
Eagle Base